

# DOC Facility Head Receives Distinguished Hoosier Award

## Media Contact:

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"It is an honor that you have been selected for this responsibility. It is a great thing for Indiana. I am proud to present you with the Distinguished Hoosier Award. When you are done with your duties - come back to us."

Governor Mitch Daniels

"He has done an exceptional job in managing one of Indiana's largest prisons, and with his vast experience, is fully capable of handling this new opportunity. The Department is very proud of John's nomination for this international project."

J. David Donahue,  
Commissioner



Gov. Daniels, Supt. VanNatta, and Commissioner Donahue

Indianapolis, Indiana (March 31, 2006) - John VanNatta, Superintendent of the Miami Correctional Facility, was recently asked to serve the United States Government as the Senior Subject Matter Expert to support the Office of Security Cooperation-Afghanistan (OSC-A) and the United States Central Command in mentoring the Afghan Ministry of Defense/General Staff and Afghan National Army (ANA). His primary duty will be to instill internationally accepted standards in the detention of those charged with criminal activity.

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Governor Mitch Daniels. "I am proud to present you with the Distinguished Hoosier Award. When you are done with your duties - come back to us."

The Combined Forces Command Afghanistan conducts full spectrum operations throughout the joint operations area to defeat Al-Qaeda and associated movements, establishing an enduring Afghan security structure.

"I am excited for Superintendent VanNatta and think that he will be a definite asset in the future development of prisons in Afghanistan," said Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner, J. David Donahue.

"He has done an exceptional job in managing one of Indiana's largest prisons, and with his vast experience, is fully capable of handling this new opportunity. The Department is very proud of John's nomination for this international project."

"I attribute my success to the support that I received over the years from the dedicated employees at the Miami Correctional Facility and the members who serve in our armed forces. This will be a monumental task to be accomplished in a dangerous and challenging environment," said Superintendent John VanNatta. "Enhancing the correctional structure in Afghanistan will aid in the defeat of Al-Qaeda, and will promote long-term stability of Afghanistan. I am proud to be able to do my part, but will miss family and friends that I leave behind."

VanNatta is uniquely qualified in a combination of three areas: law enforcement; education; and prison management. He has served more than 18 years as a superintendent/warden in both the military and public sector and has established operational and programs requirements for three prisons. He has received the Defense Superior Service Medal from the Secretary of Defense. He currently holds a top-secret military clearance.

John holds a Doctorate Degree, Nova Southeastern University, Management/Education, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Master of Science Degree, Criminology-Corrections, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana; Baccalaureate Degree, Law Enforcement Science, Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas, and a Certification, Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy, (SWAT) Quantico, Virginia.

## **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.